

This is to express concern and strong objection to the Broadband over Power Line proposal (BPL).

BPL duplicates existing consumer choices, such as dial-up, DSL and existing wireless broadband at the expense of eliminating or degrading other consumer activities, such as broadcast radio, tv, short wave reception and FCC licensed or permitted activities such as Amateur (Ham) Radio and Citizens Band (CB). To approve a proposal at the expense of pre-existing licensed services would be unprecedented.

It is possible BPL could interfere with many other existing services, such as the effectiveness of pagers, cordless telephones, garage door openers and more. The effects are unknown. Why take the risk?

BPL subscribers are also likely to receive interference from existing permitted or licensed users, creating conflicts that are difficult to resolve and wholly unnecessary.

In addition, BPL will essentially saturate the living environment with EMF emissions, the long-term effects of which are unknown. It is known the effects may vary based on physical age and stature. The FCC should weigh this matter with extreme gravity. Other emitters are required to conduct an RF Safety Evaluation. A meaningful evaluation of BPL is not possible, in that every home's wiring is different. I do not believe it is correct to expose children or others to a constant bombardment of radio emissions. Of greater concern is that consumers would have no choice about BPL RF exposure; it cannot be turned off. For those who don't want it, there is nowhere to hide.

As the mayor of a city, I also have strong concerns about compromising the effectiveness of Amateur Radio operators, who have served our community well during times of emergency.

Please consider these concerns and reject the BPL proposal. It is not needed and it only serves to enrich utilities whose primary purpose never envisioned incorporating this element. As evidenced by numerous FCC enforcement letters, many electrical utilities have shown a cavalier disregard for RF interference. What with the many millions of poorly maintained lines and connections, faulty insulators and such that exist now, can the FCC truly assure the public that BPL will not create interference, harmonics and many new unintended new sources of interference? I think not.

This proposal needs to be stopped in its tracks.

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